

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for capturing unwanted molecules, said composition comprising low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative.
2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of low-degree of substitution hydroxyalkyl cyclodextrin, low-degree of substitution alkylated cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.
3. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyalkyl cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of less than about 5.0, alkylated cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of less than about 6.0, and mixtures thereof.
4. A composition according to Claim 3 wherein said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyalkyl cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of less than about 4.5, alkylated cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of less than about 5.5, and mixtures thereof.
5. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of alpha-cyclodextrin derivatives, beta-cyclodextrin derivatives, gamma-cyclodextrin derivatives, and mixtures thereof.
6. A composition according to Claim 5 wherein said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative is a beta-cyclodextrin derivative selected from the group consisting of low-degree of substitution hydroxyalkyl-beta-cyclodextrin, low-degree of substitution alkylated-beta-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.
7. A composition according to Claim 6 wherein said beta-cyclodextrin derivative is a hydroxyalkyl beta-cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of less than about 4.0.
8. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein said hydroxyalkyl beta-cyclodextrin is hydroxypropyl beta-cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of about 3.3.

9. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein said alkylated beta-cyclodextrin is methylated beta-cyclodextrin having an average degree of substitution of about 4.2.

10. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises non-derivatized cyclodextrin selected from the group consisting of alpha-cyclodextrin, beta-cyclodextrin, gamma-cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.

11. A composition for capturing unwanted molecules, said composition comprising a cyclodextrin mixture comprising a cyclodextrin derivative having an average degree of substitution greater than that of low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative, and either a low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative or a non-derivatized cyclodextrin, wherein the cyclodextrin mixture effectively has an average degree of substitution equal to that of a low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin derivative.

12. A process of manufacturing a composition suitable for capturing unwanted molecules comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin, a cyclodextrin-compatible surfactant, and a cyclodextrin-incompatible surfactant;
- (b) combining said cyclodextrin-compatible surfactant and said cyclodextrin-incompatible surfactant to form a first mixture; and
- (c) subsequently combining said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin with said first mixture to form said composition suitable for capturing unwanted molecules.

13. A process according to Claim 12 wherein said process comprises combining said cyclodextrin-compatible surfactant and said cyclodextrin-incompatible surfactant with water to form a first aqueous mixture and subsequently adding low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin to said first aqueous mixture to form said composition suitable for capturing unwanted molecules.

14. A process according to Claim 12 wherein said process comprises combining said cyclodextrin-compatible surfactant and said cyclodextrin-incompatible surfactant to form a first mixture, combining said low-degree of substitution cyclodextrin with water to form a second aqueous mixture and combining the first mixture and the second aqueous mixture to form said composition suitable for capturing unwanted molecules.

15. A process according to Claim 12 wherein said first mixture comprises said cyclodextrin-incompatible surfactant solubilised in micelles or vesicles comprising said cyclodextrin-compatible surfactant as molecular aggregates.

16. A method of capturing unwanted molecules from a surface comprising applying to the surface a composition according to Claim 1 and allowing the composition to dry.

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